

29 December 1949

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates
FROM : Chief, Plans Branch, S/PP
SUBJECT : Soviet Propaganda Film

25X1A 1. On Tuesday, 13 December 1949, Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A attended a showing of a recent Soviet propaganda film, entitled "Meeting on the Elbe", in the State Department's screening room on the third floor of 1778 Pennsylvania Avenue. He was invited to attend this showing by Mr. [REDACTED], Chief, Film Branch, Graphics Register, OCD, who represents CIA on the State Department's Review Committee on Visual and Audio Material. You will remember that [REDACTED] has replaced [REDACTED] 25X1A on this Committee. ORE was also represented by two members of D/EE, [REDACTED] 25X1A

2. The film lasted almost two hours. Its theme is a ludicrous contrast between Soviet and US occupation policies and practices in Germany. The Americans are lambasted from every conceivable quarter. All of the well-known anti-US stereotypes are portrayed, in ways that are absurd and laughable to us but are probably highly effective abroad, particularly in Germany, where occupation is resented, no matter by whom. The film has a Russian sound-track with English sub-titles, and is very good from the technical point of view.

25X1A 3. [REDACTED] 25X1A has informed [REDACTED] that the single copy of the film presently in the hands of the US Government is being held temporarily by US Customs Inspectors, pending its release to the consignee, the [REDACTED] in New York, for commercial showing in this country. 25X1A [REDACTED] further explained that, should any US Government agency be interested in having prints of this picture made before releasing it, this could be done, provided the interested agencies shared the cost of about \$1100. [REDACTED] further stated that, although no tangible interest has been shown thus far by the IAC agencies, funds have been allocated by OSO (\$300), OPC (\$300), and OSI (\$200). [REDACTED] has asked whether ORE, as the only other Office in CIA which has a possible interest therein, would wish to contribute the remainder of the cost 25X1A

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(\$300).

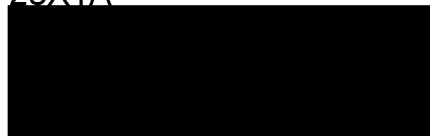
25X1A

4. With the concurrence of D/EE, as communicated orally by [REDACTED], it is recommended that ORE allocate the sum of \$300 for this project, for the following reasons:

- a. Even though the film has already been seen by a number of ORE analysts, it should be viewed as soon as possible by all other ORE analysts having responsibilities for Soviet, Satellite and occupied areas, for the following purposes:
 - (1) to indoctrinate them as to current methods and techniques of Soviet visual propaganda;
 - (2) to acquaint them in a graphic way with the psychological and propagandistic pressures exerted by the Soviets on peoples who are cut off from access to any other sources of information;
 - (3) to assist in analyzing the Soviet propaganda stereotypes constantly used against the US, particularly against US occupation policies in Germany;
 - (4) to assist ORE analysts in developing realistic suggestions for counteracting the effects of Soviet propaganda and agitation techniques;
 - (5) to provide an exceptional opportunity for study of the Russian vernacular and its specialized idioms used for purposes of psychological warfare

b. The film has great usefulness, not only for ORE's immediate purposes, but also for the future. A single showing is not sufficient for ORE analysts to obtain maximum benefit from it for the above purposes. The film will be of continuing value, and should be available in CIA's permanent storage facilities for ready access by ORE.

25X1A



Copy to D/EE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	25X1A	INITIALS	DATE
1	[REDACTED]	WST	29 Dec
2	[REDACTED] (referred by him to)		
3	AR/ORE	25X1A	29 Dec
4	[REDACTED] (who informed orally RE ORE's interest up to \$300.)		29 Dec.
5	[REDACTED] (Found papers for this transfer of funds will be submitted by ORE shortly for review)		
FROM	25X1A	INITIALS	DATE
1	[REDACTED]	OR	29 Dec
2			
3			

☒ APPROVAL ☐ INFORMATION ☒ SIGNATURE
☐ ACTION ☐ DIRECT REPLY ☐ RETURN
☐ COMMENT ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY ☐ DISPATCH
☐ CONCURRENCE ☐ RECOMMENDATION ☐ FILE

REMARKS:
 S/ad states (25X1A) that "funds can be made available" for this project by ORE.
 OK [Signature]